NUMB. CCCLIII.

The SPECTATOR.

In tenui labor———— Virg.

Tuesday, April 15. 1712.

THE Gentleman who obliges the World in general, and me in particular, with his Thoughts upon Education, has just sent the following Letter.

SIR,

'I Take the Liberty to send you a Fourth Letter upon the Education of Youth: In my last I gave you my Thoughts about some particular Tasks which I conceived it might not be amiss to mix with their usual Exercises, in order to give them an early Seasoning of Virtue; I shall in this propose some others which I fancy might contribute to give them a right Turn for the World, and enable them to make their way in it.

'The design of Learning is, as I take it, either to render a Man an agreeable Companion to himself, and teach him to support Solitude with Pleasure; or, if he is not born to an Estate, to supply that Defect, and furnish him with the Means of acquiring one. A Person who applies himself to Learning with the first of these Views may be said to study for Ornament, as he who proposes to himself the Second properly studies for Use. The one does it to raise himself a Fortune, the other to set off that which he is already possessed of: But as far the greater part of Mankind are included in the latter Class, I shall only propose some Methods at present for the Service of such who expect to advance themselves in the World by their Learning: In order to which, I shall premise that many more Estates have been acquired by little Accomplishments than by extraordinary ones: those Qualities which make the greatest Figure in the Eye of the World not being always the most useful in themselves, or the most advantagious to their Owners.

'The Posts which require Men of shining and uncommon Parts to discharge them are so very few, that many a great Genius goes out of the World without ever having had an Opportunity to exert it self; whereas Persons of ordinary Endowments meet with Occasions fitted to their Parts and Capacities every Day in the common Occurrences of Life.

'I am acquainted with two Persons who were formerly School-fellows, and have been good Friends ever since: One of them was not only thought an impenetrable Block-head at School, but still maintained his Reputation at the University; the other was the Pride of his Master, and the most celebrated Person in the College of which he was a Member. The Man of Genius is at present buried in a Country Parsonage of eight-score Pounds a Year; while the other, with the bare Abilities of a common Scrivener, has got an Estate of above an hundred thousand Pounds.

'I fancy from what I have said it will almost appear a doubtful case to many a wealthy Citizen, whether or no he ought to wish his Son should be a great Genius; but this I am sure of, that nothing is more absurd than to give a Lad the Education of one, whom Nature has not favour'd with any particular Marks of Distinction.

'The Fault therefore of our Grammar Schools is, that every Boy is pushed on to Works of Genius; whereas it would be far more advantageous for the greatest part of them, to be taught such little Practical Arts and Sciences as do not require any great share of Parts to be master of them, and yet may come often into Play during the course of a Man's Life.

'Such are all the parts of Practical Geometry. I have known a Man contract a Friendship with a Minister of State, upon cutting a Dial in his Window; and remember a Clergy-man who got one of the best Benefices in the West of *England*, by setting a Country Gentleman's Affairs in some Method, and giving him an exact Survey of his Estate.

'While I am upon this Subject, I cannot forbear mentioning a particular which is of use in every Station of Life, and which methinks every Master should teach his Scholars, I mean the Writing of *English* Letters. To this end, instead of perplexing them with *Latin* Epistles, Themes and Verses, there might be a punctual Correspondence established between two Boys, who might act in any imaginary parts of Business, or be allowed sometimes to give a range to their own Fancies, and communicate to each other whatever Trifles they thought fit, provided neither of them ever failed at the appointed time to answer his Correspondent's Letter.

'I believe I may venture to affirm, that the generality of Boys would find themselves more advantaged by this Custom, when they come to be Men, than by all the *Greek* and *Latin* their Masters can teach them in seven or eight Years.

'The want of it is very visible in many learned Persons, who while they are admiring the Stiles of *Demosthenes* or *Cicero*, want Phrases to express themselves on the most common Occasions. I have seen a Letter from one of these *Latin* Orators, which would have been deservedly laughed at by a common Attorney.

'Under this Head of Writing I cannot omit Accounts and Short-hand, which are learnt with little Pains, and very properly come into the number of such Arts as I have been here recommending.

'You must doubtless, Sir, observe, that I have hitherto chiefly insisted upon these things for such Boys as do not appear to have any thing extraordinary in their Natural Talents, and consequently are not qualified for the finer Parts of Learning; yet I believe I might carry this matter still further, and venture to assert, that a Lad of Genius has sometimes occasion for these little Acquirements, to be as it were the Fore-runners of his Parts, and to introduce them into the World.

'History is full of Examples of Persons, who though they have had the largest Abilities, have been obliged to insinuate themselves into the Fa-

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vour of great Men by these trivial Accomplishments; as the compleat Gentleman, in some of our Modern Comedies, makes his first Advances to his Mistress under the disguise of a Painter or a Dancing-Master.

'The difference is, that in a Lad of Genius these are only so many Accomplishments, which in another are Essentials; the one diverts himself with them, the other works at them. In short, I look upon a great Genius, with these little Additions, in the same Light as I regard the Grand Signior, who is obliged, by an express Command in the Alcoran, to learn and practise some Handy-craft Trade. Tho' I need not have gone for my Instance further than *Germany*, where several Emperors have voluntarily done the same thing. *Leopold* the last worked in Wood, and I have heard there are several Handy-craft Works of his making to be seen at *Vienna* so neatly turned, that the best Joyner in *Europe* might safely own them, without any Disgrace to his Profession.

'I would not be thought, by any thing I have said, to be against improving a Boys Genius to the utmost Pitch it can be carried. What I wou'd endeavour to shew in this Essay is, that there may be Methods taken to make Learning advantageous, even to the meanest Capacities.

I am, SIR,

Yours, &c.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

AT Punch's Theatre in the Little Piazza, Covent-Garden, this present Tuesday, will be presented an Opera called, The Beauteous Sacrifice, where Punch performs the part of Captain. All the Figures being new, and their Dress's agreeable to their Characters. With a new piece of Machinary after the British manner, contrived and just finished by Powell, which represents a Paradice wonderful surprising. At the breaking of the Clouds rises several Triumphal Arches, which forms several most agreeable Prospects; beautified by her most Serene Majesty of Great Britain in her Royal Robes, attended by her Peers and Officers of State, under their Feet are represented the Trophies taken from the French and Bavarians by her Majesty's Arms this War. And a new Prologue spoken by Powell; by way of *Enigma*, which gives a Description of Punch's Family. Beginning exactly at six, concluding half an hour after eight. No Persons to be admired with Masks, or Riding-Hoods. Boxes 2 s. 6 d. Pit 1 s. 6 d. no Money to be return'd after the Curtain is drawn up.

☞ Whereas about nine Weeks since there was accidentally discovered by an Husbandman at Stimsfield near Woodstock in Oxfordshire, (a large Pavement of rich Mosick Work of the Ancient Romans, which is adorn'd with several Figures alluding to Mirth and Concord, in particular that of Bacchus seated on a Panthers) This is to give Notice, that an ex & Delineation of the same is Engraven and Imprinted on a large Elephant Sheet of Paper; which are to be Sold at Mr. Charles Lillie's, Perfumer, at the corner of Beauford Buildings in the Strand, at 1 s. N. B. There are to be had at the same place at one Guinea each one a super fine Atlas Paper, some painted with the same variety of Colours that the said Pavement is beautified with; this Piece of Antiquity is esteemed by the Learned to be the most considerable ever found in Britain.

The Gentlewoman who liv'd 20 Years in Racquet-Court, and 7 Years in Crane-Court in Fleetstreet, and has served most of the Quality in England, Scotland and Ireland, also the East and West Indies, with the most excellent Curiosities for preserving the Face, Hands and Teeth, in perfect Beauty; for colouring red or grey Hair to a lovely brown or black, a Cosmatick that certainly takes away the Spots and Marks remaining after the small Pox, with many other rare Secrets in Physick, is now removed to her own House the upper end of Wine Office Court in Gough Square, next Door to the Sun dial on the Left hand, where you may be furnished with all things as formerly, and all prepared with her own Hand: She is to be spoken with every Day from 9 to 12 and from 2 till 8 at Night. She has a House in Lawrence-street near the Church in Chelsea, to be Lett or Sold, of 4 Rooms and a Dressing-room on a Floor; with a Garden in good Order, well planted with Wall-fruit and Greens, and other Fruit Trees; a good Kitchen, Wash house and Brew-house, and all other Offices fit for a Family. Enquire at Mrs. Maddox's over against the Crooked-Keys in Chelsea, or at her House in Wine Office Court as above directed.

This Day is Published,

Meditations and Prayers to be used before, at, and after the Receiving the Holy Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. The fifth Edition, with many Additions. Printed for F. F. and Sold by Tho. Harbin at the Bible and Anchor in the Lower Walk of the New Exchange in the Strand.

This Day is Published,

The Iliad of Homer, with Notes by Madam Dacier, Vol. the 2d. The 4th, 5th, 6th and 8th Books translated by Mr. Ozel, the 7th Book by Timothy, and the 9th Book by Mr. Broome of St. John's Colledge in Cambridge. Printed on a fine Elzivir Letter, and illustrated with Copper Plates, done by the best Gravers from the Paris Plates designed by Coypel. Printed for Bernard Lintott at the Cross Keys between the two Temple Gates in Fleetstreet: Of whom may be had the 1st Vol. and The Mohocks, a Tragi-Comical Farce, as it was acted near the Watch-house in Covent-Garden. By her Majesty's Servants, price 6 d.

This Day is Publish'd,

The 2d part of the History of Prince Mirabel's Infancy, Rise and Disgrace, with the sudden Promotion of Novicius. In which are intermix'd all the Intrigues both Amorous and Political, relating to these memorable Adventures; as also the Characters of the old and new Favourites in the Court of Britomartia. Collected from the Memoirs of a Courtier lately deceas'd. Printed for J. Baker in Peter-Noster-Row, and sold by B. Berington at Essex-street End. Where may be had the First part, price 1 s.

Mr. Van Nost's Collection of Marble and Leaden Figures, Busto's, noble Vases, Marble Tables and Chimney Pieces; will be sold by Auction at his late dwelling House in Hide Park Road; on Thursday the 17th of this Instant. The Sale will begin exactly at Four of the Clock in the Afternoon, and are to be seen this Day and to Morrow before the Sale, and Catalogues had Gratis at the Place above mention'd.

To be Lett or Sold,

A very handsom House in Denmark-street near St. Giles's Church, with a large Building on the back side, which may be turn'd into a Coach-house and Stable, or other Conveniences. Enquire as the Bill on the Door directs.

If any English Gentleman who has already Travelled, and is qualified by Learning and Languages to be Governour to a young Gentleman, and willing to go Abroad with him on good Terms, let him give Notice thereof to Mr. Biggs at the Old Turk's Coffee-house in High-Holborn, in order to treat thereupon.

Whereas Captain Gilbert Lacy, Linnen-Draper at the Golden Anchoak in Henrietta-street Covent Garden, is leaving off his business, this is to give Notice that he will dispose of his Goods at a very reasonable Rate.

This is to give Notice, to all Gentlemen, Ladies and others, that the Remaining part of the Goods that were left unsold, at the Bull and Looking-Glass in Cornhill, consisting of several very fine Glasses in Carved and Gilt Frames, Glass Frames, all sorts of arche hanging Glasses, Peers, and Chimney Glasses, Dressing Glasses, are still continued to be sold, with the lowest prices marked on each Glass.

To be Sold, the Manors of Southcave and Flaxfleet in Southcave, in the East-Riding of York, amounting to upwards of 400 l. per Annum. Enquire of Mr. John Greenwood, Attorney in Wood-street London, or Mr. Fran. Langley in York.

A House in Broad-street near Poland-street, now in the Possession of the Lady Lee, containing two Rooms of a floor and very good Closets, with a Garden, Coach house and Stables, to be Lett. Inquire of Mr. Oram, a Plaisterer in Covent-Garden near the Hay-Market, or of Mr. Miss, Sword-cutler over against the Rose Tavern Covent Garden.

Will be continued to be sold till Easter and no longer, at which time the Trade will be left off. All sorts of British Goods, at the Queen's Head and Golden Fleece over against the Exchange in the Strand, a large Stock of choice fresh Goods, viz. Stockings, Hoses, Flannels &c. The House and Shop being let the Stock will be sold off under the Prime Cost, either by Wholesale or Retale.

At the Mountain Wine-Cellar under the Royal South-Sea Coffee house in Broad street, is sold by retail excellent Mountain Malaga Wine at 6 s. 8 d. per Gallon or 1 s. 9 d. per Quart, and Red Viana Wine at 13 d. per Bottle; such Persons as take three Gallons shall pay but 12 s. there being 13 Bottles, warranted all new and pure from the Grape.

An Incomparable pleasant Tincture to restore the Sense of Smelling, tho' lost for many Years. A few Drops of which being snuff'd up the Nose, infallibly Cures these who have lost their Smell, let it proceed from what Cause soever; it admirably opens all manner of Obstructions of the Olfactory, or smelling Nerves, comforts and strengthens the Head and Brain, and revives the Smelling Faculty to a Miracle, effectually removing whatever is the Cause of the Disorder of that Sense, and perfectly Cures, so as to enable the Person to smell as quick and well, as any one in the World. Price 2 s. 6 d. a Bottle. Sold only at Mr. Payne's Toyshop at the Angel and Crown in St. Paul's Church Yard near Cheapside, with Directions.

LONDON: Printed for *Sam. Buckley*, at the *Dolphin* in *Little-Britain*; and Sold by *A. Baldwin* in *Warwick-Lane*; where Advertisements are taken in, as also by *Charles Lillie*, Perfumer, at the Corner of *Beauford-Buildings* in the *Strand*.

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